

12. (Amended) A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of [*AFC1*, *RCE1*,] a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:3, a nucleic acid encoding a conservative substitution of SEQ ID NO:3, a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:4, and a nucleic acid encoding a conservative substitution of SEQ ID NO:4, [and conservatively modified variations thereof].

13. (Amended) The vector of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is [selected from] a member of the group consisting of [the sequences of] SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Please cancel claim 14.

14. (Canceled) *An isolated polypeptide encoded by the vector of claim 12.*

15. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a member of [selected from] the group consisting of [the sequences of] SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

17. (Reiterated) A recombinant cell transduced with the vector of claim 12.

18. (Reiterated) The recombinant cell of claim 17, wherein the cell is a yeast cell.

19. (Amended) The recombinant cell of claim 17, wherein the vector [encodes] comprises a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of [the sequences of] SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Please insert the following new claims:

22. (New) The recombinant cell of claim 17, wherein the cell is a prokaryotic cell.

23. (New) The recombinant cell of claim 17, wherein the cell is a eukaryotic cell.
24. (New) The recombinant cell of claim 23, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.
25. (New) An isolated cell, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of $\Delta afc1$ cell, a $\Delta rce1$ cell, and a both $\Delta afc1$ and $\Delta rce1$ cell.
26. (New) The cell of claim 22, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of a W303 MAT α $\Delta afc1$, $\Delta rce1$ cell, a W303 MAT α $\Delta rce1$ cell, and a W303 MAT α $\Delta afc1$ cell.
27. (New) The cell of claim 23, wherein said cell is a selected from the group consisting of W303 MAT α $\Delta afc1::HIS3$, *leu2*, *his3*, *trp1*, *ura3* cell, a W303 MAT α $\Delta rce1::TRP1$, *leu2*, *his3*, *trp1*, *ura3* cell, and a W303 MAT α $\Delta afc1::HIS3$, $\Delta rce1::TRP1$, *leu2*, *his3*, *trp1*, *ura3* cell.
28. (New) The recombinant cell of claim 17, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of a $\Delta afc1$ cell, a $\Delta rce1$ cell, and a both $\Delta afc1$ and $\Delta rce1$ cell.
29. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising a member of the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and conservative substitutions thereof, and SEQ ID NO:4 and conservative substitutions thereof.